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Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands is 75 today!



Koninginnedag or Queen's Day is a national holiday in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Celebrated on 30 April (the 29th if the 30th falls on a Sunday), Koninginnedag is Queen Beatrix's official celebration day. Though Queen Beatrix was born on 31 January, the holiday is observed on 30 April as it was the birthday of her mother and predecessor, Juliana. This year, the holiday will become known as Koningsdag or King's Day following the investiture of Willem-Alexander as king of the Netherlands on 30 April 2013.

Landmark financing agreement signed by SOGA for expansion of Aruba's hospital



PM Mike Eman, AIB Mgr Director Frendsel W. Giel. SOGA Pres John Hodgson, Minister Sevinger

Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Infrastructure, Immigration and Environment, Benny Sevinger, stopped by the offices of the Aruba Investment Bank (AIB) on Monday afternoon, January 29, to commend the President of Stichting Onroerend Goed Aruba, (SOGA) or Aruba Real Estate Foundation, John Hodgson, on the occasion of the group obtaining the financing for the PPP (Public/Private Partnerships) project of expanding and renovating the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital.

This landmark project, the largest Public/Private financial agreement the island government has entered upon, will greatly enlarge the hospital and increase its patient and treatment facilities. The agreement signed by SOGA, which will become the landlords of the hospital, along with the seventeen institutions providing the financing, is for 240 million florins.

Continued on pg 5



Signing the agreement



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Beatrix: a Queen who transformed Dutch royalty

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands' energetic Queen Beatrix, who on Monday announced she would abdicate in favour of crown prince Willem Alexander in April, has won many Dutch hearts in her almost 33 years on the throne by giving the monarchy a modern, hard-working image.

Stepping into the shoes of her much loved mother Juliana in 1980 at the age of 42, Beatrix quickly set out to make her mark on the country she was destined to rule by birth.

Contrary to her mother's unobtrusive style of rule, Beatrix refused to be relegated to ribbon-cutting; changing the mode of address from "madam" to "majesty", and transforming one of the royal palaces in The Hague, the seat of government, into a working palace.

Here she received heads of state in her affable though formal manner and met weekly with successive prime ministers to discuss matters of government, earning the nickname "chief executive officer of the Netherlands".

She also signed laws and played an important role in Dutch politics by appointing the so-called "formateur" who explores possibilities for coalition government after general elections.

Last year's polls in which Prime Minister Mark Rutte was elected to head government for a second time, marked the first time she was not actively involved in the formateur's appointment.



Born on January 31, 1938 as the first child of queen Juliana and prince Bernhard, Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard, princess of Orange-Nassau, lived with her family in exile in Britain and Canada during World War II.

After completing her law studies, she married West German diplomat Claus von Amsberg in March 1966 -- prompting violent demonstrations against the future queen's union with someone who had worn a Hitler Youth uniform as a boy.

Riots also preceded Beatrix's coronation on April 30, 1980 following her mother's surprise abdication after a 31-year reign, when Amsterdam squatters protested the high costs of the ceremony.

But the new Queen's humble approach soon started winning over her Calvinist subjects. "Not power, personal de-

sire nor a claim to hereditary power but only the desire to serve the community can give substance to a modern monarchy," she said in her crowning speech.

An opinion poll in April 2009 found that 85 percent of Dutch citizens felt Beatrix was performing well as head of state.

Known colloquially as "Trix", the queen radiates a bourgeoisie allure in her immaculately pressed, practical dresses and suits and a stiff helmet hairdo that a staggering collection of hats cannot tease out of place.

"Only perfection was good enough for her. She worked very systematically, high in the sky like a bird of prey, no detail on the ground escaped her," a former prime minister, Dries van Agt, has said of the queen.

"The (royal) court is really run like a business," according to Henk Wesseling, historian and court advisor.

A former servant said: "She can get pretty angry when things around her go wrong or if she is confronted with unexpected situations. Under all circumstances she wants to be in control of the situation."

American magazine Forbes in 2008 listed Beatrix as the world's 14th wealthiest royal with an estimated net worth of 300 million dollars (214 million euros).

She has three sons, the oldest of whom, Willem-Alexander (born 27 April 1967), will succeed her as monarch.

A spate of misfortunes in



Queen Beatrix being sworn-in in 1980

the later years of her career was met with an outpouring of sympathy from her subjects.

The latest tragedy struck last year when her middle son, Friso was left brain-damaged after being buried by an avalanche while skiing off-piste in Lech in Austria in February last year.

Her husband prince Claus died at the age of 76 in 2002, followed by the Queen's mother and then her father in 2004.

And on Queen's Day, April 30, 2009, the nation was plunged into shock when a man ploughed his car into festival-goers in the central city of Apeldoorn, narrowly missing an open bus transporting Beatrix and members of her family.

Seven bystanders were killed in what the driver confessed was an attack on the royal family.

In an emotional, televised address to the nation shortly afterwards, Beatrix spoke of her "deep shock".

Opinion polls in the following days said support for the Queen had spiked, with 43 percent saying she should stay on the throne -- up from 27 percent before the attack.

Beatrix, however, has never been a slave to polls.

"I find popularity dangerous ... superficial and temporary," she once said in an interview with Dutch NOS public television.

Speculation rose over an abdication when in 2006 renovations were announced at Beatrix's distinctive octagonal-shaped Drakenstein castle southeast of Amsterdam in 2006, where she is now expected to live.

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Chile singer's 1973 killing prompts extradition request

SANTIAGO (AFP) - A Chilean court on Wednesday asked the United States to extradite a former Chilean military officer accused in the 1973 killing of a folk singer in the coup that brought Augusto Pinochet to power.

Pedro Pablo Barrientos Nunez, who retired as a colonel, has been accused of taking part in the killing of musician Victor Jara on September 16, 1973 as part of the putsch that brought the right-wing general to power.

On Wednesday, the second chamber of the Chilean Supreme Court asked Washington to hand over Nunez be tried for "voluntary manslaughter."

Besides being a singer, Jara was a leftist political activist. Immediately after the 1973 coup, he was among many Chileans who were taken to a football stadium where they were tortured and executed. Jara was shot 44 times.

This is the first time a Chilean court has sought to prosecute any suspects in the killing of the pacifist singer - a crime that became emblematic of the bloody Pinochet dictatorship that left more than 3,000 people dead.

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Government insists Papiamentu must be promoted and used correctly

Just recently, the Minister of Economic and Cultural Affairs, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar together with representatives of the organizing committee regarding activities for the commemoration of the Year of Papiamentu. This year 2013 has been declared the Year of Papiamentu. The year will be used to explain the importance of protecting and preserving our mother tongue.

UNESCO, world organization entrusted with protecting languages, has declared that in the world there are more than 6000 languages and if there is no protection of languages they foresee that in less than a 100 years 50% of these languages will no longer

be in existence. To guarantee the existence of Papiamentu, we must safeguard our local language by promoting and encouraging its correct usage. The perseverance of the cultural heritage of a country depends on the protection of our languages according to Minister Hooyboer Winklaar.

The government announced that Aruba will commemorate world day of languages on February 21st as well as on the 1st of May. It was ten years ago on the 1st of May that the Aruban Parliament declared Papiamentu as one of the official languages on Aruba.

In the 1950's when parliament began using Papiamentu during meetings

and 10 years ago when Papiamentu was declared an official language in Aruba alongside of Dutch, Papiamentu grew in importance. Today, two schools are using Papiamentu as a language for instruction with good results, according to Joyce Pereira, President of the Fundacion Lanta Papiamentu. The foundation is a member of the commission organizing different activities relating to the celebration of the Year of Papiamentu.

Pereira indicated that making Papiamentu official was extremely important, giving Papiamentu the recognition it deserves. Pereira continued to indicate that it is much easier for a person to learn another language if he domi-

nates his own mother tongue well. It was a long battle in Aruba to reach the point of accepting Papiamentu as a language of instruction. We fought long to get Papiamentu into our schools and for the community to support the idea. Pereira is convinced that we must continue this awareness.

Pereira expressed concern that to date the orthography of Papiamentu has not been legalized, which is something they intend to work on during this year.

The organizing commission for planning the activities for the Year of Papiamentu consists of representatives of different organizations, to mention: The Department of Culture, Grupo Collector, IPA,

National Library, University of Aruba, CHARUBA, Fundacion Lanta Papiamentu and Aruba Tourism Authority.

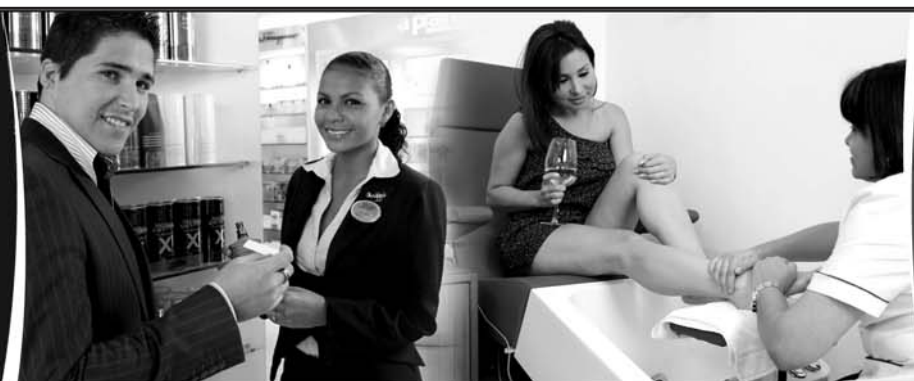
The goals for the commemoration are: awareness, information, great respect and to motivate the community to join the fight to safeguard, promote and further develop our Papiamentu language.

According to Julie Merencia of the Department of Culture, the first activity related to celebration of Year of Papiamentu, will take place on the 21st of February with a lecture at the National Library. On February 23rd the general community will be invited to register and participate in a Papiamentu Dictation at the Cas di Cultura.

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Carnival and vacation photography hints



Backlit subject will be dark, force the flash to illuminate

Over the next few weeks, visitors and islanders will enjoy many opportunities to capture spectacular shots of elaborate costumes, fantastical make up, and atmospheric pix of Aruba's carnival. Digital cameras have made it easier than ever to display for the folks at home memorable moments from your Aruban vacation, especially if you are fortunate to be here for one of the many parades coming up.

This Sunday, February 3, the Grand Children's Parade will take place in Oranjestad. Expect not only stunning, colorful costume shots, but the naturally adorable enhancement of them being worn by youngsters.

Today's digital cameras are being improved upon even as this article is being written. Competitive markets force makers to continually issue new models that have new features, prompting photography enthusiasts to keep shelling out cash, much like computers. Cameras small enough to fit into a shirt pocket (point and shoot) can produce beautiful images, often as fine as the mammoth models (DSLR) with change-

able lenses. The trick to great shots is knowing your camera and how to get the most from it.

Since there are myriad models, it is hard to tell readers exactly how to use their particular point and shoot. Each has their own style of interface, much like using different operating systems on computers, but photographic principles are still the same. To really understand how to fully take advantage of your lovely new camera's great features, take time to READ THE INSTRUCTION BOOKLET and play around with the different settings. Relying only on the automatic settings of your camera without bothering to learn how to handle various situations will result in being very unhappy with your shots a good deal of the time.

Here are some other points to take note of before pushing the shutter button:

1) Where is the light?

Light is crucial to producing a good shot. Always take note of where the light is coming from in relation to your subjects. If taking outdoor shots in strong sunlit, or in-

door, with hard lights behind your subjects, they will usually come out too dark to see their faces. If using auto mode and you see this happening, turn your subjects around and change position. If you particularly want a certain background, force the flash, though this can sometimes produce "washed out" looking pictures. Check the camera manual as to how to control the flash to override auto readings, and reduce the flash power, if needed. Some also provide metering settings to read the shadowy areas and compensate for it; check your manual for your camera's capabilities.

2) Portrait or Landscape?

These automated settings are a simplified way of controlling "aperture", how open the lens will be when taking the shot, which not only affects the amount of light the camera registers, but also "depth of field" which affects focus. "Portrait" is the term applying to a wide open lens for close subjects, which means very limited depth of field. Only subjects close to the camera, between 2-12 feet away, will be in focus, after which they will become blurry. Landscape offers a broad range of focus, good for taking shots of a long line or wide shot of a carnival parade, but close up subjects will be rather soft. Decide on what you want to focus on for your shot.

Most cameras also offer the option of focusing on the center, or other point in the frame,



Placing the sun on your subject produces better shots, watch the background. Unwanted objects will ruin what could have been a lovely shot. So watch the background as well as the subject

rather than all areas displayed. Look for the metering controls in your instruction book. How many have wanted a shot of a

particularly subject only to find it blurred and the object next to or behind it in sharp focus? You CAN command your camera to focus on a particular item. Make sure the red dot in the viewfinder or on the live screen is on that object when depressing the shutter half way to focus, and then take the shot. Or use the face detection option when taking pictures of a group of people.

These coming weeks, we will be providing more articles on taking carnival pix. The best advice is to remember, the camera does not take the picture; YOU do. Learn how it works, learn about light, focus and composition, and make your camera perform to your wishes. See you tomorrow and happy snapping!

By Rosalie Klein

CARNIVAL SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

FRI. FEB. 1st

7:30 p.m. - **Aruba's 59th Carnival Queen Election and Coronation**

Aruba's 19th Mrs. Carnival Election

(Aruba's Entertainment Center)

SAT. FEB 2nd

1 p.m. - **Children's Carnival Parade Noord**
(Noord Route: From Bubali Field straight to Centro di Bario Noord)

8 p.m. - **Aruba Tivoli Lightning Parade**

SUN. FEB 3 - Grand Children's Parade
(Oranjestad)

A Man called Oscar



By: Roland W. Peterson

*Once he was here
Then in a wink of an
eye he was there*

*Today the aging Lion
King moves slowly
The tooth of time has
gnawed and
the will to always help
has taken its toll*

*All too well the people
of San Nicolas
remember the day the
big flame came on back*

*Today a road is named
after him
The man who made a
good track.*



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Landmark financing agreement signed by SOGA for expansion of Aruba's hospital

Continued from pg 1

There are twelve local financiers, among them the major banks, CMB, Aruba Bank and a number of pension funds and insurance companies, with five foreign investors. SOGA President John Hodgeson reported they expect to begin work in earnest around July or August of this year, and the massive project should take about two

years to complete.

The first phase will be the expansion, including a new patient building, which will double the present capacity of the hospital. The second phase will be renovations on the existing facility. The architectural firm of Bermello, Ajamil and Partners of Miami was contracted last year to design the project.

The government will pay "rent" on the hospital for the next 29 years.

Hodgeson, the Prime Minister and Minister Sevinger all expressed their gratitude to AIB Managing Director Friendsel Giel for his part in facilitating the agreement. The consensus among government officials, SOGA and financial partners was this

undertaking is essential to the elevation of the quality of health care on Aruba. It also is another example of the feasibility of PPP agreements between the island and various private investors, which will allow Aruban administrators to improve infrastructure and services on the island in a timelier manner.

By Rosalie Klein

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

Dutch court rejects bulk of Nigerian suit against Shell

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A Dutch court on Wednesday rejected a bid by Nigerian farmers to hold Shell's parent company responsible for oil damage to their villages, saying that only the Anglo-Dutch oil giant's Nigerian subsidiary was partly responsible.

Both sides claimed victory in a case that pressure groups had hoped would set a precedent for global corporate responsibility.

Environmentalists hailed

the first ruling by a Dutch court on the responsibility of a subsidiary of a Dutch company for its actions abroad, while Shell said it was pleased its parent company had been cleared.

The court "dismissed all claims against the parent companies... since pursuant to Nigerian law a parent company in principle is not obliged to prevent its subsidiaries from harming third parties abroad," judge Henk Wien said.

Four farmers and fishermen, backed by lobby group Friends of the Earth, first filed the case in 2008 against the Netherlands-based group in a court thousands of miles (kilometres) from their homes.

Wien said Shell's Nigerian subsidiary must pay damages to the farmers and fishermen in one claim relating to oil spills near the Niger Delta village of Ikot Ada Udo, where a deserted well was opened with a monkey wrench.

Merkel tells Morsi to ensure dialogue in Egypt



Right in the middle of the biggest crisis of his presidency, Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi has come to Germany. Morsi had been hoping Berlin would forgive hundreds of millions of euros in debt. He ended up getting something far less tangible: advice on how to run his country.

BERLIN (AFP) - German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged the visiting Egyptian president Wednesday to ensure constant dialogue as his country grapples with a political crisis that has sparked deadly unrest.

Merkel told a joint press conference in Berlin with President Mohamed Morsi that Germany wanted a successful transformation process in Egypt, where Morsi took over last year, and was ready to help.

"From my side I made it clear that there are different things that are very important for us," she said, adding: "One is that dialogue with all political forces in Egypt is al-

ways available."

"That the different political forces can make a contribution, that human rights in Egypt are observed and that of course also religious freedom can be experienced," she added.

The visit came as Egyptian opposition leaders sought urgent talks on the political crisis, as fresh violence killed two more people in Cairo after nearly a week of violence.

According to German media reports, the Egyptian leader came to Berlin to seek debt relief as well as possible German investment to help the country's struggling economy.

Ahead of Morsi's arrival, Germany's foreign minister warned that German financial aid to Egypt was contingent upon democratic progress.

Berlin's offer of help "depends on advances in the democratic development in Egypt", Guido Westerwelle said on ARD public television.

After meeting Merkel, Morsi was due to take part in a conference with German Economy Minister Philipp Roesler and the president of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In December Germany announced it had postponed debt relief for Egypt of up to 240 million euros (\$316 million) due to concerns about its commitment to democracy.

Germany is Egypt's third biggest trading partner.

Russia to ban US meat imports Feb 11: agency

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia on February 11 will stop importing all US meat and meat products over concerns about the use of a feed additive that is banned in Europe, Interfax quoted Russian officials as saying on Wednesday.

The decision follows the Rosselkhoznaadzor veterinary and phytosanitary surveillance service's earlier decision to ban the import of chilled meat products from the United States as of February 4.

It also comes amidst a broader chill in Russian-US relations linked to Washington's retaliation against alleged rights abuses by Moscow officials.

The ban relates to a drug called ractopamine which is added to feed in the United States and other countries to promote the development of lean meat.

The drug has been banned by both the European Union and Russia as well as China.

Rosselkhoznaadzor head Sergei Dankvert told Interfax that traces of the drug were still being discovered in meat coming from the United States and that Russia intended to stop all imports as a result.

"Since the violations are continuing and we are detecting ractopamine in meat being supplied by the United States, we intend to introduce limits on the import of these products as of February 11," Dankvert said.

The US Meat Export Federation -- a non-profit trade association -- said that "only a very small portion of US meat exported to Russia was in chilled form" and would fall under the first ban.

However it said that most US meat that is exported to Russia would fall under the ban that comes into effect February 11.

The USMEF estimates annual US meat and pork exports to Russia at about \$500 million (370 million euros).

6.7 magnitude quake hits Chile's central-north: USGS

SANTIAGO (AFP) - A strong 6.7-magnitude earthquake jolted northern Chile Wednesday, US monitors said, knocking out electricity and local telecom services but no immediate tsunami warning was issued.

The earthquake occurred at 2015 GMT, at the relatively shallow depth of 47.5 kilometers (29.5 miles) and the epicenter was located 102 kilometers (63 miles) from the mining town of Copiapo, the US Geological Service said in a report.

The quake knocked out phone service and power in cities in the region, local officials said.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii said in a preliminary report that based on historical data no destructive widespread tsunami threat existed, but noted that an earthquake of such magnitude could cause localized damage.

Copiapo garnered global attention two years ago when 33 workers were trapped deep inside a nearby mine for more than two months before being rescued.

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International News

Gabby Giffords to Senate: 'You must act' on gun violence

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Ex-lawmaker and shooting victim Gabrielle Giffords made a brief but impassioned appeal in Congress Wednesday, telling lawmakers "you must act" to find ways to reduce gun violence.

"Violence is a big problem. Too many children are dying," Giffords, a former congresswoman who was shot in the head two years ago at a massacre in her home state of Arizona, told a hushed Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

"We must do something. It will be hard, but the time is now," she said in a slow, deliberative tone that has marked her speech during her extensive recovery.

"You must act," she said, starting down the panel of senators before her, several of whom hugged her as she entered the hearing room.

Giffords, escorted into the room by her husband, the former NASA astronaut Mark Kelly, was speaking as an unannounced witness at the year's first congressional hearing on the causes of and possible solutions for gun violence.

The hearing comes six weeks

after a gunman stormed into a school in Newtown, Connecticut and killed 20 small children and six adults.

And it pits Giffords and Kelly, who plan to launch a gun control advocacy organization, against fellow witness Wayne LaPierre, the executive vice president of the National Rifle Association, the gun lobby's leading voice.

"Proposing more gun control laws -- while failing to enforce the thousands we already have -- is not a serious solution to reducing crime," LaPierre said in prepared testimony.

"Law-abiding gun owners will not accept blame for the acts of violent or deranged criminals," he added. "Nor do we believe the government should dictate what we can lawfully own and use to protect our families."

The Newtown massacre prompted a spirited national debate about gun rights, and led President Barack Obama to unveil a list of proposals on how to reduce gun violence, including making background checks mandatory for all gun sales and purchases, and reinstatement of an assault weapons ban.

Iranian \$40-mn platform unit sinks in Gulf

TEHRAN (AFP) - A \$40 million engineering structure belonging to Iran's South Pars gas field to be used in offshore platforms sank into the Gulf as it was being installed, media reports said on Wednesday.

The equipment was built by Maritime Industrial Company (SADRA), an affiliate of the industrial wing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, over a 30-month period.

The incident occurred Monday night as the 1,850-tonne jacket developed for South Pars Phase 13 sank to a depth of 80 metres (264 feet), media reports said, adding that there were no reports of any casualties.

Because of its links to the Guards, SADRA is subject to sanctions imposed by the European Union and the United States over Tehran's controversial nuclear programme.

Along with other industrial subsidiaries of Guards engineering wing the Khatam al-Anbiya group, SADRA was in 2010 awarded a \$5-billion contract to develop Phase 13 after Western energy majors withdrew over the sanctions.

Tehran considers the devel-

opment of the South Pars field, which is jointly owned by Qatar, to be a strategic priority.

Iran says it currently produces about 650 million cubic metres of gas daily, including 280 million from South Pars, most of which is used for domestic consumption.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in early January that Iran plans to double the field's production capacity by summer 2013, but the accident is expected to delay the launch of Phase 13 by several months.

Once completed, Phase 13 is to produce around 56 million cubic metres of gas daily.

Major Western companies that previously operated in South Pars, among them France's Total and Anglo-Dutch giant Shell, withdrew from Iran between 2007 and 2010 after sanctions were imposed over Tehran's atomic ambitions.


Iran, which has the world's second-largest natural gas reserves after Russia, claims it is able to develop South Pars on its own by giving many of the projects to companies affiliated to the Guards.

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Merkel says Hitler's rise to power 'constant' warning

BERLIN (AFP) - Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Wednesday that Adolf Hitler's rise to power 80 years ago should go on reminding Germans that democracy and freedom cannot be taken for granted.

Merkel was speaking at the inauguration of an exhibition in Berlin to commemorate eight decades since Hitler became chancellor on January 30, 1933 -- an anniversary which has aroused much interest in Germany.

"Human rights don't assert themselves. Freedom doesn't preserve itself all alone and democracy doesn't succeed by itself," Merkel said. "That must be a constant warning for us, Germans," she added referring to Hitler's arrival at the chancellery.

The exhibition, "Berlin 1933. On the Path to Dictatorship", is on a site charged with history as the former headquar-

ters of the Gestapo, the secret police of the Nazi regime.

It now houses The Topography of Terror, an open-air documentation centre whose exhibition traces Hitler's first months in power through photos, newspapers and posters.

Merkel noted that it only took six months for the dictator to "wipe out all the diversity" of German society.

But she also underscored that a large part of society had supported "or at least acquiesced" to Hitler's regime.

In a black-and-white photo, visitors to the exhibition can make out the Fuehrer saluting the crowd from the chancellery window on the evening of January 30, 1933, after earlier having been made chancellor and been charged by president Paul von Hindenburg with forming a new government.

Posters go on to show images of the Reichstag going up in flames the following month

and then the first measures taken against the Jews on April 1, with the start of a boycott of Jewish shops, doctors and lawyers.

Andreas Nachama, director of The Topography of Terror, said the arrival of the failed painter from Austria at the helm of power in Germany was an "incision" in history, although nobody at the time thought he would last.

According to Nachama, the exhibition shows the "daily erosion of democratic institutions" as the Nazi regime began to build up steam, eventually leading to World War II and the deaths of 40 to 60 million people, including six million Jews.

The 80th anniversary has sparked much interest in Germany, with a novel that imagines Hitler's return to modern-day Berlin entitled "He's Back" (Er Ist Wieder Da) becoming a bestseller here.

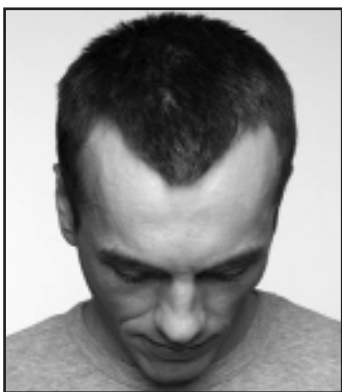


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Erectile dysfunction signals heart troubles



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Erectile dysfunction might signal more than a need for the little purple pill, researchers said in a study showing a link with heart disease and early death.

The Australian study -- the world's largest investigating links between erection problems and heart disease -- suggested erection problems could act as a warning sign of more serious health issues.

"The risks of future heart disease and premature death increased steadily with severity of erectile dysfunction," whether or not there was a history of cardiovascular disease, study director Emily Banks said.

Previous studies had found ties between severe erection problems and heart attacks and strokes, but this study was the first to also include mild and moderately severe erection problems.

"These results tell us that every man who is suffering

from any degree of erectile dysfunction should be seeking medical assistance as early as possible and also insisting on a heart health check by their GP at the same time," said Rob Grenfell, Cardiovascular Health director at Australia's Heart Foundation.

The study, followed 95,000 men aged 45 and older for two to three years. The men responded to a survey on their health and lifestyle, and the authors also studied any records of hospital stays or deaths in the group.

Over the study period, there were 7,855 hospitalizations for cardiovascular disease and 2,304 deaths.

Banks said that the study indicated that erection problems seemed to be a symptom of heart problems.

"Rather than causing heart disease, erectile dysfunction is more likely to be a symptom or signal of underlying 'silent' heart disease and could in future become a useful marker to help doctors predict the risk of a cardiovascular problem.

"This is a sensitive topic but men shouldn't suffer in silence; there are many effective treatments, both for erectile dysfunction and for cardiovascular disease," she emphasized.

Erection problems are very common. About one in five men over 40 report moderate or severe erectile dysfunction.



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Health & Living

Doctors outline operation to repair Malala's skull

LONDON (AFP) - Doctors in Britain on Wednesday outlined how they plan to repair a hole in the skull of Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban last year for campaigning for girls' education.

Surgeons at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the central English city of Birmingham plan to insert a titanium plate to protect the 15-year-old's brain in an operation in the next 10 days.

"This is, very simply speaking, putting a custom-made titanium plate over the deficit in her skull, primarily to offer physical protection to her brain in the same way as a normal skull would," the hospital's medical director Dave Rosser said.

Malala is completely deaf in her left ear after she was shot

at point blank range in the October attack, so surgeons will also insert an electronic device into the ear that should help her hearing return to near-normal levels within 18 months.

Surgeons in Pakistan who were the first to treat Malala before she was brought to Britain inserted the missing section of her skull into her abdomen, but it had eventually been decided not to use the bone.

"The safest way to store that bone, to keep it sterile and healthy, is in the patient's body, so they will make an incision in the skin and tuck it into the abdomen," Rosser said at a press conference.

"Surgeons in consultation with Malala have decided that fitting this titanium plate is a better long-term procedure than trying to re-implant the bone after such a long period

of time."

Malala was temporarily discharged by the hospital on January 4 and is currently staying in Birmingham with her parents and siblings, who have joined her in England.

Rosser said Malala was a "remarkable young lady" and despite her ordeal she was determined to continue speaking out for girls' right to education.

"She is not naive at all about what happened to her and the situation she is looking forward to in terms of being a high-profile person, and potentially a high-profile target.

The attack on Malala, by a Taliban gunman who singled her out as she travelled on a school bus in the town of Mingora in Pakistan's northwestern Swat Valley, sparked worldwide condemnation.

Argentine woman gives birth after heart transplant

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - In what doctors Tuesday said was a medical first, an Argentine woman with a transplanted heart gave birth to a baby girl following an in vitro fertilization.

Pregnancy after an organ transplant is always a high risk proposition because the drugs needed to ensure the transplanted organ is not rejected make pregnancy difficult, and their effects on the fetus were not clear.

The risks are even greater in heart patients because women have 40 percent more blood during pregnancy, putting extra strain on the heart.

"This could lead to not enough blood getting to the uterus, causing the baby to grow less" and a possibly premature birth, Leguizamon said.

The medications needed to perform in vitro fertilization added yet another layer of complication, said Ricardo James, a reproductive specialist at the high risk center.

But the risks did not stop Juliana Finondo, 39, who was determined to chase her dream of motherhood.

The graphic designer from eastern Argentina, who now lives in Buenos Aires, had a heart transplant in 1999. At the time, doctors told her she could not risk getting pregnant after the surgery.

A decade later, she decided to try -- but two years passed without getting pregnant naturally.

Infertility can be a side effect of the immunosuppressant drugs used to prevent organ re-

jection, said Sergio Papier, a doctor who heads a research center focusing on gynecology and reproduction.

Transplant patients "can see their ovarian reserve affected and their fertility diminish," said Papier, who did not work with Finondo.

So after Finondo was carefully examined to ensure she didn't show any signs of reject-

ing her heart, her doctors designed a special medication plan to wean her from the drugs, adding to her difficulties conceiving and to add in the fertility drugs needed for in vitro fertilization.

Luckily, Finondo got pregnant on her first round of IVF. And after nine months of strict monitoring her healthy daughter Emilia was born on January 15.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Sci-Tech

Rebranded BlackBerry launches comeback effort



NEW YORK (AFP) - BlackBerry launched its comeback effort Wednesday with a revamped operating system and a pair of sleek new handsets, plus a company name change as the smartphone maker moves to reinvent itself.

Canadian-based Research In Motion changed its name to BlackBerry as it launched the BlackBerry 10, the new platform aimed at helping the firm regain traction in a market now dominated by rivals.

"From this point forward, RIM becomes BlackBerry," chief executive Thorsten Heins told a glitzy unveiling in New York, one of six global events for the product launch. "It is one brand. It is one promise."

Heins presented two devices, the touchscreen-only Z10 and the Q10 model, which contains BlackBerry's trademark keyboard.

The release of the new

handsets will be staggered over the next couple of months. One of the phones will be available in Britain from Thursday, and Canadians will be able to buy one February 5.

In the critical US market, the device will not be available until March, although leading carriers like AT&T and Verizon are unveiling plans now, Heins said.

The company also introduced recording star Alicia Keys as its new global creative director.

Heins said the new BlackBerry is not just about new platforms and products, but "engaging with successful entrepreneurs and working moms," and that Keys would play a role in that effort.

Keys, who said she had returned to BlackBerry after flirting with other devices, said her job would allow her to "work with people in the

entertainment and music business" to help enhance the BlackBerry experience.

The launch is seen as critical to BlackBerry, which had been the dominant smartphone maker before Apple launched its iPhone and others began using the Google Android operating system.

Kagan said the new BlackBerry "will be a strong competitor for the number three position. They won't come close to number one or two where Google and Apple are, but the market does want more choices."

BlackBerry has traditionally scored best with corporate clients who have been partial to the device's reputation for greater network security.

However, the smartphone market has been changing radically as more companies shift to a "bring your own device," or BYOD, model in which companies let workers choose their smartphone.

Other features include the capacity for users to share in real-time screens and complex data from two different locales on a messaging system. The phone also features an efficient writing device in which writers can flick a single character and generate an entire word in English, French, German or other languages.

Prison terms for doctors in French radiation overdose scandal

PARIS (AFP) - A French court on Wednesday sentenced two doctors and a radiophysicist to 18 months in prison for their role in radiation overdoses given to nearly 450 cancer patients.

At least 12 people have died as a result of the overdoses administered to patients at the Jean Monnet hospital in Epinal in northeastern France between

2001 and 2006.

Dozens more are seriously ill as a result of calibration errors that produced the most serious radiation overdose incident France has known.

The doctors and the radiophysicist had been charged with manslaughter, failure to help people in danger and destroying evidence.

Judge affirms Apple-Samsung award, limits damages

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - A US judge refused to toss out a verdict ordering Samsung to pay \$1 billion to Apple for patent infringement, but reversed a finding of "willful" violations which could have tripled the award.

Apple had accused Samsung of illegally copying parts of its popular iPhone and iPad for the South Korean electronics giant's flagship Galaxy line of smartphones and tablets. The charges were denied by Samsung.

Samsung had appealed the original ruling, depicting the verdict as a loss for consumers and contending that Apple had "manipulated" the patent system in order to go after its Galaxy S smartphones.

The case is among several pending in courts around the

world in a battle between the two tech titans over patents. Two separate rulings by courts in Japan and the Netherlands have dismissed Apple's claims of patent infringement.

The dispute has major implications for the highly competitive smartphone market, of which Samsung has captured 29 percent compared to Apple's 21.8 percent, according to research firm IDC.

But Apple, which has seen its share price slide on fears of slowing growth, may be more concerned about the Google Android operating system used by Samsung and others.

A survey by Strategy Analytics said Android grabbed 70 percent of the global market in the final three months of the year.

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LEADING ROLES

ACROSS

1. Film crew aide, for short
5. Gardener's starting point
9. Insurgent
14. Few and far between
15. Improve, as one's skills
16. Crème de la crème
17. Eccentric oath
18. Sinclair Lewis heroine
20. Certain pitch
22. River through Leeds
23. Snare
24. Gore, formerly
26. Cheryl or Alan
28. One whose goose is cooked
30. "___ My God to Thee"

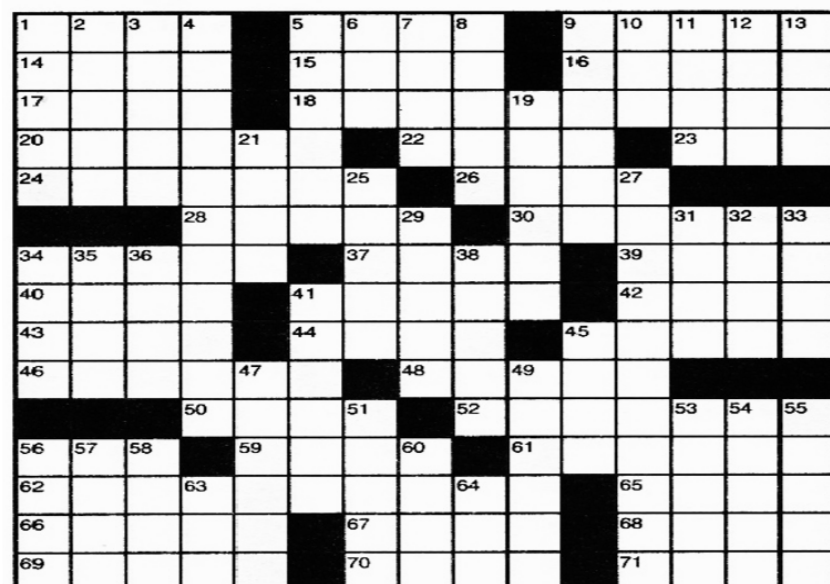
34. NOW member
37. Southwestern Indian
39. Wisconsin's neighbor
40. United ___ Emirates
41. Duvalier and Hemingway
42. Arrest
43. Moxie
44. Eve's son
45. Mike who played Austin
46. Queen of sleuthdom
48. "Blue ___" (1959 film)
50. Cross
52. Pleasure
56. Newt
59. Splotch
61. Dealer
62. Booth Tarkington heroine
65. Traditional

66. Circus worker
67. Caron role
68. Tied
69. "___ Georgia Brown"
70. In other circumstances
71. Leftover portion

DOWN

1. Locket item
2. Kind of scout
3. Actress Jeanne ("State Fair")
4. Henrik Ibsen heroine
5. Actress Stone
6. Thousands of years
7. Italian province
8. Fiend
9. Withdraw

10. Maryland river
11. Well, to Pierre
12. Raison d'___
13. For fear that
19. Teheran citizens
21. Stiff collar
25. Betty Ford Center offering, for short
27. Henry James heroine
29. ___ in (enticed)
31. Mindless repetition
32. Ornamental jug
33. Batters
34. Salary
35. By word of mouth
36. Shopping center
38. Lost one's blush
41. Bribery
45. "Moonlight ___" (Rolling Stones)
47. Redford or Preston
49. Scotland monster's moniker
51. Evade
53. Damsel's token
54. Start of a toast
55. River to the Humber
56. Has dinner
57. Blemish
58. "Swing ___" (Astaire film)
60. Business end of a scorpion
63. Fair grade
64. Small measures: abbr.



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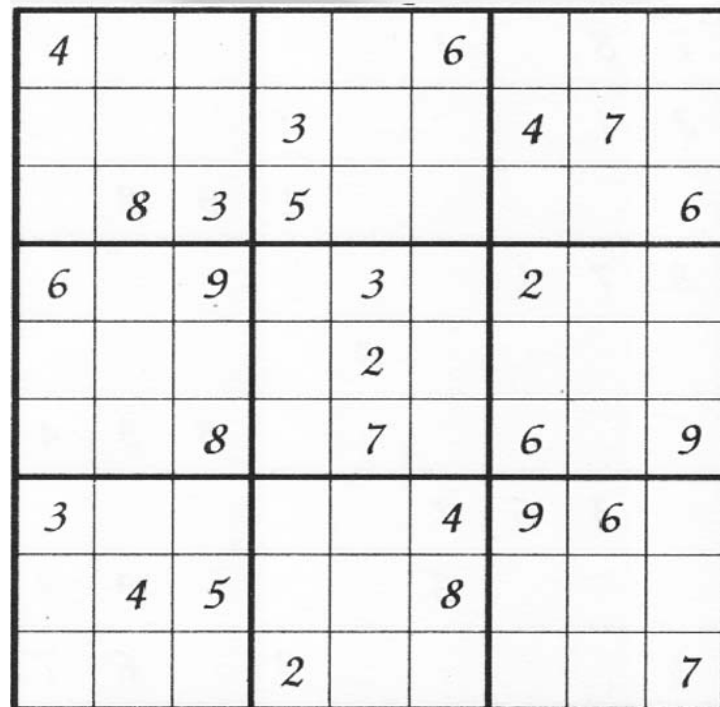
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Sudoku




SOLUTION

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Z	I	E	8	9	6	5	P	L
8	9	6	P	5	L	Z	I	E
6	E	9	5	L	P	8	Z	I
1	8	L	6	Z	9	P	E	5
P	5	Z	I	E	8	6	L	9
9	6	I	Z	P	5	E	8	Z
5	L	P	Z	8	E	I	9	6
E	Z	8	9	6	I	L	5	P

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 01/30/2013

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.85
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	196.00
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	243.60
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.55
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.89
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	33.00
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	197.16

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Internet age navigation drives economies

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Fresh from unveiling detailed online maps of North Korea, Google on Wednesday touted studies showing that Internet Age navigation tools boost the economic engines of nations.

The global "geospatial industry" brings in \$270 billion in annual revenue and companies in the sector pay more than \$90 billion in wages each year, according to a report by economic consulting firm Oxera.

Firms working with global satellite positioning, digital maps and navigation systems are a "promising engine for economic activity now" and will grow by 30 percent annually, according to Oxera.

"If policymakers, private companies, researchers and consumers continue to invest in this emerging industry, we can expect this technology to continue driving growth in the broader global economy," Oxera said in its report.

Geospatial technology has ripple effects ranging from making it easier for someone with a smartphone to find a nearby cafe to efficiently routing shipments or figuring out the best place to open a shop or place a billboard.

Oxera estimated that businesses worldwide have saved

\$17.3 billion due to time saved by using navigation technology and that people had a total of 1.1 billion hours lopped from their travel time.

Charlie Hale, of Google Maps' public policy team, described the geospatial industry as companies dealing in maps and navigation devices.

Companies and countries with modern map skills and data have economic and competitive advantages, he argued, citing the Oxera study and a US-focused study by Boston Consulting Group.

Evidence is even growing that people with better grasps of digital era mapping and navigation technologies earn higher incomes, according to Hale, who confessed to being the son of a geography teacher in Maine.

Qatar to invest up to 1 bn euros in Greece

DOHA (AFP) - Qatar has announced it will invest up to a billion euros (\$1.34 billion) in a joint fund with Athens to bolster recession-hit Greek industry, the state news agency QNA reported Wednesday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani revealed his country's investment plan in Greece late Tuesday after talks with his Greek counterpart Antonis Samaras, the agency said.

He said Qatar's investment could equal a similar investment by Greece in the joint fund, along the lines of an existing deal with Italy.

"We want to match our joint fund agreement signed with Italy few months back ... where we agreed to set up a fund with a 50:50 shared capi-

Finance

India to sell 10% of state refinery to cut deficit

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India said on Wednesday it planned to sell a 10 percent stake in state-run refinery Oil India this week for at least \$465 million as part of plans to reduce its budget deficit.

The Congress-led government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh urgently needs to raise capital from privatisation with the deficit threatening to exceed a targeted 5.3 percent of gross domestic product.

The government hopes to raise 25 billion rupees to 30 billion rupees (\$465 million-\$561 million) with its offer of 60 million shares from the Oil India sale set for Friday, said Oil Secretary G.C. Chaturvedi.

The government was expected to sell the shares of Oil India at a discount to the prevailing share price. The shares closed down 2.3 percent at 527.15 rupees on Wednesday.

The government holds a 78.43 percent stake in the company that would fall to 68.43 percent after the sale.

New Delhi has collected only 69 billion rupees in its privatisation drive, raising fears it will be unable to attain its 300 billion rupee goal for the current financial year to March 2013 and meet its deficit reduction target.

tal of two billion euros (\$2.69 billion)," he said.

"We do not have a problem matching this figure," he added, referring to Qatar's around one billion euro investment in the Italian venture.

The Greek fund, part of co-operation agreements signed on Tuesday in Doha, would invest in Greek small and medium-sized businesses.

Recession-mired Greece has long sought to entice Qatari investment in real estate development to jumpstart its flagging construction industry, traditionally one of the main engines of its economy.

Under Qatar's deal with Italy, the Gulf state will invest in several sectors including fashion, food, tourism and design.

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TEGUCIGALPA (AFP) - Garifuna people perform a ritual during a ceremony to symbolically bury the 128 deputies of the Honduran congress during a protest against recently approved laws and the Special Development Zones project, in Tegucigalpa, on January 29, 2013.

Switzerland hands Britain a \$545mn advance in tax deal

GENEVA (AFP) - Switzerland said Wednesday it had given Britain a 500-million Swiss franc (\$545-million, 400-million-euro) advance as part of a special deal that took effect on January 1 aimed at taxing British funds stashed in Swiss banks.

"This advance constitutes a guarantee for Britain that it will recover a minimum sum on British taxpayers' until-now untaxed funds in Switzerland," the Swiss government said in a statement.

Faced with mounting international criticism that its banking practices enable wide-scale tax evasion in other countries, Switzerland reached agreements last year with Britain, Austria and Germany to ease its cherished bank secrecy.

The accords with London and Vienna took effect on January 1, but the German parliament ended up blocking that country's deal last year.

Under the agreements, foreigners that deposit undeclared funds in Switzerland maintain their anonymity but are taxed by Bern, which in turn transfers the revenues to the account holder's country of origin.

If the British and Austrian clients do not want their Swiss

banks to automatically deduct taxes from their accounts, they can instead opt to declare their account holdings to the tax authorities in their home countries.

The Swiss government said Wednesday that, in accordance with the deal with London, Swiss banks had handed over 500 million Swiss francs to federal tax authorities, who in turn had passed on the money to Britain.

The advance, it said, would progressively be paid back to the banks as soon as they had transferred 800 million Swiss francs in withheld taxes from their British account-holders to authorities in London.

The entire advance would be repaid once 1.3 billion Swiss francs worth of taxes had been generated, it added.

Bern hailed the new tax deals, saying they "resolve the problem of non-taxed funds and allows foreign tax authorities to recover what is due to them and yet preserves the privacy of bank clients."

The deals, it said, mark "a new government policy in regard to financial markets," it said.

Switzerland is also in the process of negotiating similar deals with Greece and Italy.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Taiwan billionaire launches Asian 'Nobel prize'



TAIPEI (AFP) - One of Taiwan's richest men on Monday launched what has been widely touted as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, and it is even more lucrative than the famed Swedish award.

Samuel Yin, head of the sprawling Ruentex business empire which has invested heavily in China, said that by donating Tw\$3 billion (\$101 million) for the Tang Prize he

had fulfilled one of his biggest dreams.

"I hope that the prize will encourage more research that is beneficial to the world and humankind, promote Chinese culture and make the world a better place,"

he said in a statement released by the prize foundation.

The prize is named after China's Tang Dynasty (618-907), which is much admired by Yin, the foundation said.

The dynasty has inspired generation after generation with admiration for its vibrant characteristics of self-confidence and cosmopolitan inclusiveness, which are the

qualities that the Tang Prize seeks to promote, it said.

Beginning in 2014 prizes will be awarded every two years in four different categories -- sustainable development, biopharmaceutical science, sinology and the "rule of law" -- to individuals, regardless of nationality.

The winner in each category will receive Tw\$50 million (\$1.7 million), compared to the eight million Swedish kronor (\$1.2 million) that comes with a Nobel Prize.

The Tang Prize will help raise Taiwan's profile in the international scientific community, the statement said.

Nobel Prizes are awarded in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace.

African billionaire to give half his wealth to charity

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Mining billionaire Patrice Motsepe announced Wednesday he would give half his family's fortune to charity, becoming the first African to match a pledge made by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett. The Soweto-born tycoon, worth an estimated \$2.7 billion (1.99 billion euros), announced he would join the Giving Pledge, which challenges the world's wealthiest to give at least 50 percent of their fortune to charity.



and future. There's no period. This will go on into perpetuity." The money, Motsepe said, would be used to help "poor and other disadvantaged and marginalised South Africans." he 51-year-old made his billions through black empowerment deals, designed to redress white economic dominance that stemmed from apartheid laws. He founded and owns mining company African Rainbow Minerals (ARM) and is Africa's eighth richest person according to Forbes magazine.

'Sinly yours': India displays rare Gandhi letters

NEW DELHI (AFP) - A rare collection of letters between Indian independence icon Mahatma Gandhi and a South African bodybuilder with whom he shared a close relationship went on display in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The bond between Gandhi and Hermann Kallenbach has been a subject of speculation and gossip for years owing to their closeness, with previously published correspondence suggesting they may have had a physical relationship.

One of the handwritten letters from Gandhi to Kallenbach that went on show on Wednesday, the 65th anniversary of Gandhi's assassination, is addressed to "My dear Lower House" and signed "Sinly yours, Upper House".

However scholars looking for clear evidence on the full



extent of the men's relationship were left disappointed, with curators acknowledging that they had only put a sample of correspondence on display at the National Archives museum.

Gandhi lived with Kallenbach, a German-born Jewish architect, in Johannesburg for about two years from 1907 before returning to India in 1914 where he helped unify the gathering political movement

against British colonial rule.

The archive of letters and photos belonging to Kallenbach was purchased by the Indian government last year, just before they were due to be auctioned by Sotheby's in London.

Hasan denied that the collection had been screened and controversial letters left out keeping in mind the exalted status that Gandhi enjoys in the country.

Most Timbuktu ancient texts saved



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Most of the priceless ancient books and manuscripts housed in a Timbuktu centre were smuggled away before Islamists overran the city last year, an associate curator told AFP Wednesday. Residents charged that Islamists had burnt priceless ancient books and manuscripts at the Ahmed Baba Centre for Documentation and Research as they fled a French-led offensive last week. Jeppie said Wednesday that more than 20,000 manuscripts had been moved out of the South African-sponsored centre by May last year and hidden away in the capital Bamako and elsewhere in Timbuktu. It was not immediately clear how many manuscripts there are in the entire town.

Chef's Table, 'A hidden gem' close to both Palm and Eagle Beach resorts



--Tucked away down the main Bubali Road, just a mile from the Super Food market is one of Aruba's most charming eateries, known for fine food and exceptional surrounding. Chef's Table has been described by loyal patrons as "a hidden gem," and the attention to quality by the amiable staff will prompt the new visitor to agree.

Delightful decorations of original art set the mood in this converted landmark



country home, divided into several cozy rooms. There is also the choice of dining al fresco in the central gardens, one of the great options of eating out on Aruba.

A gourmet menu includes such unique items as an individual Mediterranean Fish Pot, served with pasta, or a creative sauce for the very fresh catch of the day. Guest particularly rave about their



"Surf & Turf," of lobster and filet mignon, uniquely marinated duck breast, and "Black & White Sesame Tuna" served with a Lemon-Zucchini Risotto.

Chef's Table is one of those few restaurants you can count on to be open both Sunday and Monday, as Wednesday is their day off. Don't miss the opportunity to



try this moderately priced, gourmet treat in most pleasant surroundings, and save just a tad of room for their famous "tapas" style desserts, offering a shot glass of sweetness, the perfect end to a delectable meal and most pleasant evening. **Visit their website <http://www.chefstablesaruba.com/> to meet Chef Martin and the crew.**

La Linda Department Store- where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very seriously. It all

started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is

particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to



Unique, quality goods in all departments



Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection

renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. **Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.**

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality.

They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!

Sport

Africa Cup of Nations....



Togo's national football team players celebrate after qualifying

NELSPRUIT (AFP) - Three years after the deadly Cabinda machine gun attack, Togo were celebrating an historic feat at the Africa Cup of Nations Wednesday by reaching the quarter-finals for the first time.

The 2013 first round drew to a close with Togo deservedly holding former champions Tunisia to a 1-1 draw in Nelspruit.

That was sufficient to see the little west African nation sneak past the eliminated Carthage Eagles and into the last eight.

Tunisia were following fellow north African heavyweights Algeria and Morocco on an early plane home.

Togo, as Group D runners-up, will face Burkina Faso in Nelspruit while table toppers Ivory Coast, who drew 2-2 with already eliminated Algeria in the 'dead' game in Rustenburg, face Nigeria.

Togo were led by talismanic captain Emmanuel Adebayor, who hid under a seat when the Togo team bus came under fire from separatists in the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda before the 2010 Nations Cup in Angola.

Two of Togo's entourage died in the attack.

On their return to the continental showcase and making the quarters for the first time Togo have, if not banished memories of that horrific day, then at least given them and their supporters something to smile about.

Serge Gakpe put Togo into the lead at Mbombela Stadium before Khalid Mouelhi levelled from the spot.

Togo won a reprieve when Mouelhi missed a second-half penalty, his effort hitting an upright after a dubious award spot-kick, one of a hatful of strange calls by

South African referee Daniel Bennett.

Organisers CAF, meanwhile, came in for some stick from both coaches, Trabelsi complaining about the translator at the press conference and Six about the already heavily criticised sandy pitch in Nelspruit.

"The pitch is not a problem for either Togo or Tunisia, it's a problem for CAF, who should not allow games to be held on this pitch -- they should take responsibility," said Six.

The Frenchman added that he would start plotting Burkina Faso's downfall on Thursday.

"We'll start preparing for them tomorrow -- now is not the time to think about that."

After a helter-skelter opening 12 days, the 2013 finals take a breather ahead of the quarter-finals, which begin in Port Elizabeth on Saturday with Ghana facing Cape Verde followed by hosts South Africa against Mali in Durban.

The Ivorians are first out on Sunday against Nigeria with Togo facing Burkina Faso later.

FIFA test goalline technology systems in Germany



BERLIN (AFP) - Football's governing body FIFA has had two different systems tested at a Germany stadium as they look to introduce goal line technology into top-flight football.

Both 'Goal-Ref', a system which can verify whether a goal has been scored by using a chip in the ball, and 'Hawk-Eye', the camera system already used in tennis, were tested at the Dusseldorf Arena on Tuesday.

A number of factors were included to create realistic factors which could affect the system, with testers using smoke machines and strobe lighting to replicate different weather conditions.


"The goal-line technology

will be tested for performance and reliability. There will be static and dynamic tests to stimulate day and night situations," said FIFA in a statement.

A decision on which system will be used is expected to be made at the International Football Association Board's (IFAB) next meeting in Edinburgh from March 1-3.

Goal-line technology was already in use at December's Club World Cup in Tokyo and is expected to be used at both the 2013 Confederations Cup and the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

The new technology could be used in the Bundesliga as early as the start of the 2013/14 season in August.



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Surfing: Monster wave 'very challenging', says US surfer



PARIS - American Garrett McNamara has described the difficulties of riding monster waves off the coast of Portugal, as he waited to hear whether he had broken the record for the biggest wave ever surfed.

McNamara currently holds the world record for the biggest wave surfed after riding a 78-foot (23.77 metre) breaker in Nazare, central Portugal, on November 1, 2011 but on Monday was thought to have gone better at the same location.

The 45-year-old from Hawaii was cautious about his exploit, though, telling reporters that he had "no idea" about the size of the wave and that his partner Kealii Mamala may even have set the new

global benchmark.

Surfing experts and event organisers were also unable to say definitively whether the man nicknamed "G-Mac" had clinched another world best, amid reports that the wave could have been as high as 100ft, but praised his bravery for tackling the waves.

Both McNamara and Mamala were able to reach the waves in the Atlantic Ocean swell off the rocky coast of the fishing village, some 130 kilometres (80 miles) north of Lisbon, due to practice known as a "tow-in".

Guinness World Records told AFP in emailed comments that it was working with big wave surfing experts Billabong XXL to verify officially the exact size of the wave McNamara rode on Monday.



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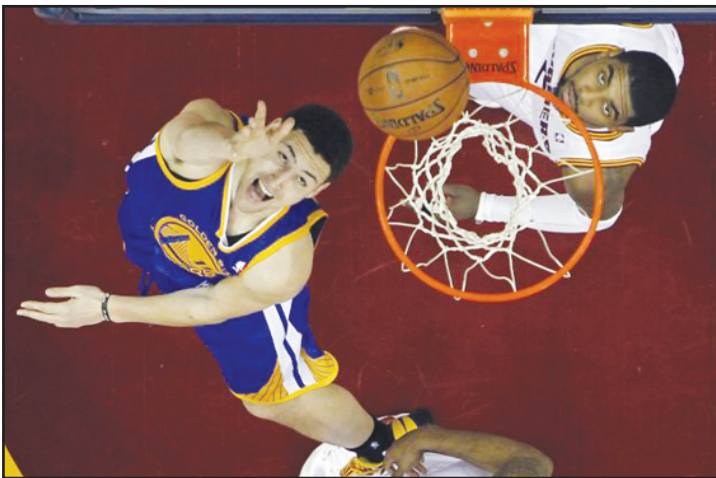
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NBA: Thompson powers Warriors over Cavaliers



CLEVELAND (AFP) - Klay Thompson scored a career-high 32 points, including a personal best six 3-pointers, to

power the Golden State Warriors over Cleveland 108-95 in an NBA game on Tuesday.

Thompson hit 13-of-24

shots from the field, including a 6-of-8 showing from beyond the 3-point arc, as the Warriors won for the fifth time in seven games despite the absence of Stephen Curry with an ankle injury.

Golden State was also without Australian center Andrew Bogut, who returned to the lineup on Monday after missing 38 games but was benched to rest a surgically repaired ankle, as well as Carl Landry and Harrison Barnes.

At 28-17, the Warriors have not started so well so deep into an NBA season since the 1991-1992 campaign.

Boxing: Britain's unbeaten Brook to fight for world title



DETROIT (AFP) - Undeclared British welterweight Kell Brook will fight for a world title for the first time when he faces American Devon Alexander in Detroit next month, promoters announced on Wednesday.

Brook, a 26-year-old slugger from Sheffield, is 29-0 with 19 knockouts, while International Boxing Federation world champion Alexander is 24-1 with 13 knockouts, entering the February 23 showdown at Masonic Temple Theatre.

Brook comes into the bout off three triumphs in 2012, a unanimous decision over Britain's Matthew Hatton, a majority decision over American Carson Jones and last October's third-round stoppage of Argentina's Hector David Saldivia.

"There's no way that I am coming home without that world title," Brook said. "I'm

in the best physical shape of my life and the best ever Kell Brook will be in the ring in Detroit.

Brook's only prior fight outside the United Kingdom came in December 2011, when he stopped Puerto Rico's Luis Galarza in the fifth round in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Alexander, 25, makes the first defense of the title he won last October with a unanimous decision over compatriot Randall Bailey.

It was his third win in a row since suffering the only loss of his career to unbeaten American Tim Bradley, who last year took a split decision over Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao last year.

Also on the card will be hometown favorite Cornelius Bundrage defending his IBF junior middleweight crown against fellow-American Ishe Smith.

Tennis: Stephens to lead US against Italy in Fed Cup

NEW YORK (AFP) - Australian Open semi-finalist Sloane Stephens will lead an inexperienced United States squad against Italy in next week's first-round Fed Cup tie, US captain Mary Joe Fernandez announced on Wednesday.

Stephens shocked Serena Williams in the quarter-finals at Melbourne and at 10 months and three days beyond her 19th birthday became the youngest American to go so deep in a Grand Slam event since Williams in 2000 at Wimbledon.

Stephens, ranked a career-best 17th in the world, made her Fed Cup debut in doubles last year in a World Group playoff against Ukraine and is expected to make her singles debut in the February 9-10 tie on red clay at Rimini, Italy.

Also named to the US squad were first-time Fed Cup players Varvara Lepchenko and Jamie Hampton, 23, as well as Liezel Huber, ranked eighth in doubles.

Uzbek-born Lepchenko, 26,

became a US citizen last September while South African-born Huber, 36, became a US citizen in 2007.

Italy defeated the Americans in the 2009 and 2010 Fed Cup finals after losing their first nine Fed Cup meetings.

The Italian squad features World No. 7 Sara Errani and World No. 16 Roberta Vinci, who combined to win the women's doubles title at the Australian Open, plus Karin Knapp and Nastassja Burnett.

Judo: Japanese female Olympians 'beaten' by coaches

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's female Olympic judo athletes were beaten with bamboo swords and slapped by their coaches, officials said Wednesday, weeks after a schoolboy's suicide sparked anguished debate over corporal punishment. A 15-strong group of judokas complained to the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) last month that they had been subjected to physical punishment by the team's head coach. The group, which included athletes who took part in the London Olympics, says head coach Ryuji Sonoda routinely abused them, slapping them in the face and hitting them with thick wooden swords, like those used in the Japanese martial art of kendo. They also complained that some were forced to compete in matches while injured, reports said. AJJF head Koshi Onozawa said the federation had admonished Sonoda and other coaches, who had admitted several of the allegations. Japan's women returned from London with one gold, one silver and one bronze medal in judo, well below their haul from the 2008 Beijing Games.

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Football: Israeli club unveil Muslim players after uproar



JERUSALEM (AFP) - Beitar Jerusalem unveiled two Muslim footballers from Chechnya, whose signing caused uproar among some of the club's more racist supporters, on Wednesday.

Zaur Sadaev and Dzhabrail Kadaev, signed from Russian League club Terek Grozny, reportedly came through medicals at the club and were presented to fans.

News of their transfer last Saturday enraged some of the club's fans, who chanted racist anti-Arab slogans and waved signs reading "Beitar - pure forever" during a game later that day.

After the match, police arrested three fans for incitement to racism, but Russian-Israeli owner Arkady Gaydamak insisted the signing would go ahead, saying the opposition came from a small minority of supporters.

But there were no major incidents in Tuesday's match between Beitar and the Arab-Israeli team from Umm al-Fahm, which Beitar won 5-0.

Speaking on Wednesday through an interpreter, Sadaev, 23, said he felt at home and that he had "come to play football, nothing else".

Kadaev, 19, said the two were not afraid of playing for the club, despite the uproar which greeted their move.

"We do not know the word fear," he said.

Coach Eli Cohen, wished them luck, "even though it will be difficult".

Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat made a point of attending the brief press conference to stress: "We will not accept any kind of violence and any kind of racism."

He added: "I'm proud of the club and its ability to sustain coexistence."

Beitar Jerusalem have a reputation of attracting a hard core of anti-Arab fans, with many of its supporters adamant the club should never sign an Arab player, even though Muslim footballers have played for Beitar in the past.

Football: Ivory Coast 'reserves' storm back to hold Algeria



RUSTENBURG (AFP) - A virtual second-string Ivory Coast side scored twice inside four minutes to snatch a 2-2 draw with Algeria Wednesday in a "dead" Africa Cup of Nations Group D game.

Didier Drogba and Wilfried Bony struck for the title favourites after Sofiane Feghouli and El Arbi Hilal Soudani had put the Desert Foxes two goals ahead with 20 minutes left.

When the competition draw was made last October, this fixture stood out as a highlight of the 24 in the first round, but when the teams walked on to the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace pitch only pride was at stake.

Victories over Togo and Tunisia clinched top spot for Ivory Coast four days ago while losses to the same countries had eliminated Algeria,

who are ranked second in Africa behind the Ivorians.

Halilhodzic resisted wholesale changes despite the losses to Tunisia and Togo eliminating his team. He called up Khaled Lemmouchia and Boudebouz in place of Foued Kadir and Feghouli.

Ivory Coast finally awoke from their slumber to score twice within four minutes through Drogba and Wilfried Bony and bring the teams level 10 minutes from time.

A glancing header from soaring Drogba flew past Rais Mbolhi and a shot from Bony took a wicked deflection off Djamel Mesbah to give the Algerian goalkeeper no chance.

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